

tax in respect of its income, profits or gains derived.

(b) and (c). Section 28 (1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of the NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act, and the appointment of auditors and remuneration payable to them shall be subject to the approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e). As per the provisions of NDDB Act, 1987, the question does not arise.

Complaints Regarding Telephone Services

7233. SHRIVENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of numerous complaints regarding functioning of Telephone services in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve working of existing units; and

(c) the results of corrective measures carried out, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the steps taken for making telephone services more efficient are given below:—

- i) Replacement of old and worn out equipments by electronic equipments and installation of new electronic digital exchanges in urban and rural

areas;

- ii) Upgradation of external plant;
- iii) Improvement/modernisation of long distance transmission;
- iv) Computerisation of services, such as fault control, directory enquiry etc.

(c) With these measures, a significant improvement has been noticed in the telephone services such as manual trunk calls, STD and local call completion rate, delivery of telegrams and reduction in fault rate.

Purchase of Fibre Optic Cables

7234. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies, both public and private, from whom Government have been buying fibre optic cables for communications needs;

(b) the names of companies that have been licensed to manufacture fibre optic cables;

(c) the names of companies and the amounts of the orders placed so far by the communications department for fibre optic cables;

(d) whether there have been any complaints so far regarding the performance of the fibre optic cables supplied so far and if so the details thereof; and

(e) the average prices of fibre optic cables being paid by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (e). The